

draw from the other British Colonies on this Continent whatever regular forces had been stationed in them; and it cannot but tend to raise the character of this Province, that its Government could with safety be left thus destitute of military aid, at a time when rebellion was raging in the adjoining Colony, and after the people of Canada had been traitorously incited by certain Members of the Imperial Parliament to throw off their allegiance to their Sovereign, and to resort to violence, if it should be necessary, for overturning the Constitution which we had received by the solemn act of the British Parliament.

Except, indeed, for the encouragement which our apparently defenceless state has given to some lawless people on our frontier, it is perhaps not to be regretted that at so critical a period the inhabitants of Upper Canada should have been left to defend their Country and Institutions, without the assistance of a military force. Your Majesty's Governor of this Province had ventured to give a manly and open support to British interests and principles; he had not distrusted the inclination of a loyal people to support the Throne, nor hesitated to refuse co-operating with those who were labouring to subvert our Government. By this natural and honorable course he had deprived agitation of its hope, and had given assurance and animation to the loyal. It was fortunate that an impressive example should be given of the soundness of a policy, which had for its basis a firm reliance upon the wisdom and justice of British Institutions, and a generous confidence that the people whom he governed had the sense to appreciate and the virtue to uphold them. No system of policy ever had a fairer trial; encouraged by the existence of rebellion in the adjoining Province, and hoping for aid from the people of a foreign State, the enemies of British rule ventured to throw off all disguise, and to raise their traitorous arms against a Government to which they had sworn allegiance. But the effort was no sooner made than it was signally defeated: thousands of Your Majesty's Subjects rushed instantly to the support of your Royal authority, and of the laws; and in many of the most populous Districts of this Province, not a single individual was found to countenance the wicked and ungrateful attempt to separate this Colony from the British Empire.

In the progress of these disturbances however, an unlooked for danger suddenly discovered itself, of a much more formidable character than those which had been surmounted, and one that opens new and startling considerations to the inhabitants of this Colony, and of the British Empire.

While Your Majesty's Forces and Your loyal Subjects in Lower Canada were engaged in suppressing as causeless a rebellion as ever was fomented among a deluded people, we observed with astonishment, that in the adjacent parts of the United States of America, undisguised efforts were made to create among the people a strong feeling in favor of the insurgents. Public meetings were held, in which it was declared, that nothing more was intended than an expression of "sympathy"; but the results of such meetings went very far beyond this avowed intention. Arms were collected, and contributions of various kinds made for the benefit of those who were in actual rebellion against their Sovereign, and under the palpably disingenuous pretext of defending themselves against a people who never meditated an infringement of their rights, American citizens were seen rising in large bodies and threatening the peace and security of a British Colony, regardless alike of the injunctions of their own Government, and of the express provisions of their laws.

Upon the frontiers of this Province, the inhabitants of several of the United States of America have carried their hostilities to a much greater length; and while the relations of peace subsisted between the Republic and Great Britain, and when there remained not the slightest commotion among our people, they have not scrupled to arm themselves with artillery and weapons plundered from the public arsenals of their own country, and remaining embodied for many weeks, have carried on a piratical warfare against this Province.

Independently of those considerations of national honor and duty, which ought not to be without their weight in the United States of America, we cannot believe it possible that the